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10/815,610	04/02/2004	Kia Silverbrook	HYT004US	9412
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SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD				GRANT II, JEROME
393 DARLING STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/815,610	SILVERBROOK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit Jerome Grant II 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-23, 25-34 and 48-66 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 24 and 35-47 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/2004, 2/2002

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

Detailed Action

1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14, 20-23, 27-30, 32-34 and 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmidt.

With respect to claim 1, Schmidt teaches a scanning device (elements 1-3) to scan an interface surface (436) provided on a product item (435), the interface surface having disposed thereon coded data (bar code data) indicative of an identity of the product item, the product item provided in a sensing region (see figure 18b) including: a beam generator 39 for emitting at least one beam (see col. 16, lines 62-65); first and second acoustic optic deflectors 38 (a-e) for deflecting a beam orthogonally; a sensor 41 for sensing a product in a sensing region (see col. 15, lines 8-18); and a processor 40 for determining, using at least some of the sensed coded data indicative of the product item. See col. 14, lines 27 and 28, 50-55 and col. 15, lines 12-18.

With respect to claim 2, the beam controller is polygon mirror 36 and mirrors 38(a-e).

With respect to claim 3, the plurality of beam paths are taught at col. 16, line 65 to col. 17, line 5.

With respect to claim 4, see figures 6a1

With respect to claim 5, col. 16, lines 5-10 show the 90 degrees between the patch and the beam path.

With respect to claim 6, see mirrors 38(a-e).

With respect to claim 7, Schmidt teaches a first mirror 38(a); a plurality of second mirrors 38(b-e) and a controller (motor for rotating the polygon mirror 36) so that the beam is reflected to the first and second mirrors.

With respect to claim 8, Schmidt teaches wherein the mirror 38(b-e) controls a beam path and wherein the controller controls the position of the first mirror to thereby direct the scanning beam along a selected path beam path. See also the teaching at col. 16, line 65 to col. 17, line 5.

With respect to claim 9, Schmidt teaches a sensor 41 is adapted to sense radiation reflected from the product item along the selected patch beam path.. See col. 15, lines 8-18.

With respect to claim 10, Schmidt teaches an EPC associated with the product item. This is the product identification referred to at; col. 11, lines 52-65, col. 13, lines 15-20 and col. 14, lines 6-9.

With respect to claim 11, Schmidt teaches the product identity is unique to the product. See also col. 13, lines 15-20.

With respect to claim 12, Schmidt teaches a generation of a scan identity with respect to the product as referred to at col. 17, lines 60-67.

With respect to claim 13, Schmidt teaches the claimed limitation with respect to col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 26.

With respect to claim 14, the product identification during a scanning event and generates product data when different data had been previously determined before (such as error data). See col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, lines 26.

With respect to claim 20, Schmidt teaches a plurality of points taken together which constitutes a bar code and the region of the barcode.

With respect to claim 21, Schmidt teaches a reference point such as the object detection filed for generating position data A(1) representing the sensed portion of the interface point of the product.

With respect to claim 22, Schmidt teaches data indicative of the identify of the region A(1) wherein the processor determines the identity of the region from at least some of the sensed coded data (bar code data). See also col. 17, lines 60-67.

With respect to claim 23, Schmidt teaches at least one coded data portion 9bar coded filed) and wherein the coded data portion is indicative of the region identity (identified as A(1)). See also col. 17, lines 60-67.

With respect to claim 27, the amplitude modulator corresponds with element 39 of Schmidt.

With respect to claim 28, this claim is inherent with respect to the nature of sensor 41 as the laser beam from generator 39 is modulated by 38(a-e and mirror 36).

With respect to claim 29, the claimed focusing element is 384 of Schmidt.

With respect to claim 30, the filter as claimed corresponds to element 186A and is suggested to be a band-pass filter type.

With respect to claim 32, see the laser generator 39 of Schmidt.

With respect to claim 33, if one can be detected, several items can be detected. See col. 17, line 60 to col. 18, line 26 for the detection of items.

With respect to claim 34, Schmidt teaches a processor 40 is adapted to determine the presence of barcode data during a scanning event by scanner 2; determine the product identity corresponding with the detected data, see col. 17, line 50 - col. 18, line 26 and activating an alarm if more than one product item is detected. This alarm detection operates, according to Schmidt, when a detection of a scanned object in a short or long range mode is detected. When A(1) = 1, a signal is generated when an object is determined to be present within the object detection field of the bar code symbol reading device. A control circuit generates an enable signal E(o). See col. 20, lines 40-50. A digital pulse counter counts to a predetermined threshold during which time, the barcode is detected. Upon detecting the barcode, a second activation, A(2) is generated, and a control value C(3) allows the contents of the barcode to be processed.

If two bar codes are read in the same clock period, the barcode information will be improperly read since the system reads one at a time. Hence, an error code will be generated producing an audible alarm signal by the base unit. See col. 30, lines 10-19.

With respect to claim 48, the limitation is inherent in that the product devices with product codes can be read near simultaneously with respect to the rate each product can be processed.

With respect to claim 49, the memory for storing the product identity is shown by figure 8-2.

With respect to claim 50, at lease subparts (b) and (c) of this claim are inherent with respect to the objected detection field. A product code could cover at least 25% of the area of the product that is scanned.

2.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15, 25, 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Umeto.

With respect to claim 15, Schmidt teaches all of the subject matter upon which the claim depends except for generating inventory for an existing product and comparing the product identify with respect to a pre-determined stored identity.

Umeto teaches a barcode management system whereby a new product label can be identified for a unique product by comparing the product with respect to predetermined product identification stored in sections 120/130.

Since Schmidt and Umeto are both directed toward processing barcode signals as they relate to product items, the purpose of storing unique identification for new products would have been contemplated by Schmidt as set forth by Umeto.

It would have been obvious to use the processing and storage means of Umeto and modify Schmidt so that it includes these additional features for storing unique product numbers as is determined by Umeto.

With respect to claims 25 and 26, Umeto teaches a keyboard section 140 for providing a user interactive element. Here, data about the product can be added to a barcode. Also, the added data can be encoded to the barcode data further identifying the product and the result of the new label printed out. See col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 7; col. 6, lines 20-28; col. 6, lines 51-56 and col. 7, lines 35-47 of Umeta.

Since, Schmidt and Umeta are both directed to a bar code inputting device, the purpose of using interactive and printing devices, as claimed, would have been recognized by Schmidt as set forth by Umeto.

It would have been obvious to modify base unit 3 of Schmidt to include the interactive and printing device of Umeta to make the present invention.

With respect to claim 31, Schmidt teaches all of the subject matter except infrared ink.

Umeto teaches using a printer 300. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use infrared ink in printer 300 so that a printed label can be detected by an IR scanner (such as a barcode reader using a laser) for the purpose of reading product indicia.

3.

Claims 51-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Novak

.With respect to claims 51 and 52, Schmidt teaches all of the subject matter except for the conveyor as claimed.

Novak teaches a conveyor 1 in which product items are scanned over a continuous belt and one read by a scanner 10.

Since, Schmidt and Novak are directed toward scanning product devices with barcodes, the purpose of using a conveyor would have been recognized by Schmidt as set forth by Novak.

It would have been obvious to mount the scanner 2 of Schmidt into the base 3 and place a product item on a conveyor, as Novak teaches, for the purpose of scanning the product devices as suggested by Novak.

With respect to claim 53, This alarm detection operates, according to Schmidt, when a detection of a scanned object in a short or long range mode is detected. When A(1) = 1, a signal is generated when an object is determined to be present within the object detection field of the bar code symbol reading device. A control circuit generates an enable signal E(o). See col. 20, lines 40-50. A digital pulse counter counts to a predetermined threshold during which time, the barcode is detected. Upon detecting the barcode, a second activation, A(2) is generated, and a control value C(3) allows the contents of the barcode to be processed.

If two bar codes are read in the same clock period, the barcode information will be improperly read since the system reads one at a time. Hence, an error code will be generated producing an audible alarm signal by the base unit. See col. 30, lines 10-19.

With respect to claim 54 Schmidt teaches this limitation in that the product devices with product codes can be read near simultaneously with respect to the rate each product can be processed.

With respect to claim 55, Schmidt teaches at least an audible alarm, see col. 30, lines 10-19 of Schmidt.

With respect to claim 56, the memory for storing the product identity is shown by figure 8-2.

With respect to claim 57, Schmidt teaches a communicator 106, adapted to communicate with a computer system (base 3), see figure 1a adapted to send to the computer at least one of the product identify data (code symbol); and the scan data (bar code data) see also col. 17, lines 23-32, 48-52 and 60-67.

With respect to claim 58, Schmidt teaches a memory located in the base unit 3 which is synonymous with the computer system.

With respect to claim 59, the scanning device 2 is taught by Schmidt.

4.

Claims 16-19 and 60-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt.

With respect to claims 16-19, Schmidt teaches using error correcting techniques to avoid inputting the erroneous data from the scanner. See col. 29, lines 30-37. While the use of redundancy coding or Solomon-Reed coding is well known among error correction schemes, from fax to image or voice transmissions, the use of CRC or other redundancy schemes would have been contemplated by the skilled artisan.

It would have been obvious to use redundancy coding as an error correcting method to be utilized by Schmidt.

Such coding inherently includes signaling a failed scanned attempt and the rejection of erroneous data. The error is corrected by rescanning such that no errors are detected. Other reconstruction of fragmented codes are well known in the art for reconstructing signals which may have been lost during a barcode scan.

With respect to claim 60, Schmidt teaches an interface surface 436 on a product item 435, the scanning device including a laser (generated by beam generator 39) and reflectors 38(a-e) for generating orthogonal beams to thereby generate a raster scan pattern over a scanning patch as claimed; a sensor 41 for sensing the at least one exposed coded data portion; and a processor 40 for determining the product identity.

Schmidt does not teach that the products that are being scanned have multiple coded portions. However, if one coded portion is provided on a package, the use of multiple coded portions for larger items would be contemplated by a manager intending to inventory and sale the items in an expeditious manner.

the use of multiple barcodes is contemplated by Schmidt in that if one can be used, a plurality can be used to increase the probability of obtaining an easier read by a POS operator scanning the product device. This is especially contemplated for large or bulky items where a product code on the bottom makes it very difficult for the operator to lift the large package or turn it upside down, possible dislodging the packaging contents, for the purpose of reading the barcode.

With respect to claims 61-63, Schmidt teaches a beam generator 39 as claimed, a beam controller 38(a-e) and polygonal mirror 36 for the purpose claimed; a sensor 41 for obtaining coded data from an interface surface of the product item; and a processor 40 for processing the identity of the coded data.

What is not specifically taught is the simultaneous use of two or more scanners.

Schmidt provides that if one scanner can be used then a second scanner may also be used, for example, in a wired communication mode, instead of use an acoustic communication mode. Thereby, one of ordinary skill in the art would have known to use a plurality of scanners for reading barcode information from a product.

With respect to claim 64, Schmidt does not teach that the products that are being scanned have multiple coded portions. However, if one coded portion is provided on a package, the use of multiple coded portions for larger items would be contemplated by a manager intending to inventory and sale the items in an expeditious manner. Schmidt teaches the use of multiple barcodes is contemplated by Schmidt in that if one can be used, a plurality can be used to increase the probability of obtaining an easier read by a POS operator scanning the product device. This is especially contemplated for large or bulky items where a product code on the bottom makes it very difficult for the operator to lift the large package or turn it upside down, possible dislodging the packaging contents, for the purpose of reading the barcode.

Schmidt teaches a housing 2 adapted to be held by a user in use (see figure 1); a laser generated from 39 directed to become a scanning beam traversing first and second orthogonal directions to generate a raster scan; a sensor 41 for sending the one exposed coded data portions ;and a processor 40 for determining, the product identity.

With respect to claim 65, Schmidt teaches a reading device 2 adapted to read an interface surface 436 provided on a product item 435 for the purpose claimed, the reading device including: a housing 2 for mounting on a finger (hand held device); a radiation source (39) for illuminating the coded data; a sensor 41 for reading the coded data; a processor 40 for processing the sensed coded data.

Schmidt does not teach that the products that are being scanned have multiple coded portions. However, if one coded portion is provided on a package, the use of multiple coded portions for larger items would be contemplated by a manager intending to inventory and sale the items in an expeditious manner.

With respect to claim 66, Schmidt teaches an interface surface 436 having disposed barcode data which includes a plurality of locations the reading device including: a housing 2 adapted to be held by the user; a radiation source 39; image sensor 41 and processor 40 for determining the sensed coded data.

Schmidt does not teach that the products that are being scanned have multiple coded portions. However, if one coded portion is provided on a package, the use of multiple coded portions for larger items would be contemplated by a manager intending to inventory and sale the items in an expeditious manner.

The use of multiple barcodes is inherent by Schmidt in that if one can be used, a plurality can be used to increase the probability of obtaining an easier read by a POS operator scanning the product device. This is especially contemplated for large or bulky items where a product code on the bottom makes it very difficult for the operator to lift the large package or turn it upside down, possible dislodging the packaging contents, for the purpose of reading the barcode.

5.

Claims Objected

Claims 24 and 35-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles, can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jerome Grant II/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625